UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/RES/52/188
4 February 1998

Fifty-second session
Agenda item 97 (*c*)

## RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/52/628/Add.3)*]

### 52/188. Population and development

*The General Assembly*,

*Recalling* its resolutions 49/128 of 19 December 1994, 50/124 of 20 December 1995 and 51/176 of 16 December 1996 on the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[1]

*Taking note* of Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/42 of 22 July 1997, in which the Council recommended that the General Assembly, at its fifty-second session, decide on the process and modalities, including the possibility of convening a special session of the Assembly in 1999, for reviewing and appraising the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,

*Stressing* the need to pursue further the implementation of the Programme of Action and for Governments to recommit themselves at the highest political level to achieving its goals and objectives,

*Recognizing* the important contributions made by actors of civil society, particularly non-governmental organizations, to the Conference, its follow-up and the implementation of its Programme of Action,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General concerning the process and modalities for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development;[2]

---

[1] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[2] A/52/208/Add.1.

2. *Decides* to convene a special session for a duration of three days from 30 June to 2 July 1999, at the highest possible level of participation, in order to review and appraise the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development;

3. *Reaffirms* that the special session for the overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action will be undertaken on the basis of and with full respect for the Programme of Action, and that there will be no renegotiation of the existing agreements contained therein;

4. *Welcomes* the operational review of the implementation of the Programme of Action to be undertaken under the auspices of the United Nations Population Fund, in cooperation with all relevant organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations, and notes that the report and outcome of the international forum in 1999 will be submitted to the Commission on Population and Development at its thirty-second session and to the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund;

5. *Decides* that the Commission on Population and Development, which is currently scheduled to consider at its thirty-second session a comprehensive report of the Secretary-General on the outcome of the quinquennial review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action, should serve as the preparatory body for the final preparations for the special session for the overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action, reporting through the Economic and Social Council, and in that regard notes that the comprehensive report of the Secretary-General should also contain an overall assessment of the progress achieved and constraints faced in the implementation of the Programme of Action, as well as recommendations for future action;

6. *Encourages* Governments to undertake reviews of the progress achieved and the constraints faced therein in the implementation of the Programme of Action at all levels, particularly at the national level and at the level of international cooperation, with a view to contributing to the preparations for the special session;

7. *Invites* Governments of developed and developing countries to provide information in order to establish a useful factual basis for the review of the mobilization of resources made available - bilateral, multilateral and domestic - for population and development activities with a view to strengthening the implementation of the Programme of Action;

8. *Decides* that the thirty-second session of the Commission on Population and Development shall be open-ended to allow the full participation of all States;

9. *Invites* all other relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to contribute as appropriate to the special session as well as to its preparation;

10. *Decides* to invite States members of the specialized agencies that are not members of the United Nations to participate in the work of the special session in the capacity of observers;

11. *Stresses* the need for the effective participation of actors of civil society, particularly non-governmental organizations, in preparation for the special session, as well as the need to ensure appropriate arrangements, taking into account the practice and experience gained at the International Conference on Population and Development, for their substantive contributions to and active involvement in the preparatory meetings and the special session, and in that context invites the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with Member States, to propose to Member States appropriate modalities for their effective involvement in the special session;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session a progress report on the preparations for the special session;

13. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session a sub-item entitled "Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development".

*77th plenary meeting*
*18 December 1997*

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/RES/52/189
4 February 1998

Fifty-second session
Agenda item 97 (*d*)

## RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/52/628/Add.4)*]

### 52/189. International migration and development

*The General Assembly*,

*Recalling* the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development adopted at Cairo, in particular chapter X on international migration,[1] and the relevant provisions contained in the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development[2] and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development[3] and in the Platform for Action[4] adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women,

*Reaffirming* the continuing validity of the principles set forth in the instruments regarding the international protection of human rights, in particular the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[5] the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,[6] the Convention on the

---

[1] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[2] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[3] Ibid., annex II.

[4] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[5] Resolution 217 A (III).

[6] Resolution 2106 A (XX), annex.

Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[7] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[8]

*Aware* that, in spite of the existence of an already established body of principles, there is a need to make further efforts to ensure the human rights and dignity of all migrants and their families and that it is desirable to improve the situation of all documented migrants and their families,

*Recalling* its resolutions 49/127 of 19 December 1994 and 50/123 of 20 December 1995 on international migration and development, as well as Economic and Social Council decision 1995/313 of 27 July 1995,

*Recalling also* that the Economic and Social Council, in the context of its role under the Charter of the United Nations vis-à-vis the General Assembly and in accordance with Assembly resolutions 45/264 of 13 May 1991, 46/235 of 13 April 1992, 48/162 of 20 December 1994 and 50/227 of 24 May 1996, should assist the Assembly in promoting an integrated approach to the implementation of the Programme of Action in providing system-wide coordination and guidance in monitoring the implementation,

*Recalling further* that the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council should carry out their respective responsibilities, as entrusted to them in the Charter, in the formulation of policies and the provision of guidance to and coordination of United Nations activities in the field of population and development,

*Recognizing* the importance from an analytical and operational point of view of identifying the existing linkages among the social, economic, political and cultural factors related to international migration and development and of taking appropriate steps to intensify the analysis of issues involved,

*Noting in particular* the need for more migration data, a coherent theory to explain international migration and a better understanding of the complex interrelationships between migration and development,[9]

*Noting* the role of relevant United Nations organizations in delivering adequate support to developing countries to ensure that migration contributes to development,

*Noting also* the critical role of the existing forums within the United Nations system in addressing the issues of international migration and development, including through the Commission on Population and Development,[10] the Commission on Human Rights,[10] the Committee for Development Planning,[10] the International Labour Organization, and other relevant key organizations,

*Taking note* of the recent regional and subregional conferences on international migration as an example of a Government-driven process of consultation and cooperation to address particular problems associated with international migration,

*Noting* that a technical symposium on international migration and development will be convened in 1998 by the Administrative Committee on Coordination at the request of the Commission on Population and Development,[10] pursuant to resolution 50/123,

*Recalling* its resolution 51/148 of 13 December 1996 on cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration, in particular its request therein to the Secretary-General, in

---

[7] Resolution 34/180, annex.

[8] Resolution 44/25, annex.

[9] See E/CN.9/1997/2, para. 11.

[10] Recognizing, without prejudice, the Economic and Social Council review of its subsidiary bodies, as initiated under General Assembly resolution 50/227, bearing in mind the other relevant Assembly resolutions.

consultation with the Director-General of the International Organization for Migration, to foster systematic consultations on matters of common interest,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[11]

2. *Urges* Member States and the United Nations system to strengthen international cooperation in the area of international migration and development in order to address the root causes of migration, especially those related to poverty, and to maximize the benefits of international migration to those concerned;

3. *Encourages*, where relevant, interregional, regional and subregional mechanisms to continue to address the question of migration and development;

4. *Calls upon* the international community to seek to make the option of remaining in one's country viable for all people; to that end, efforts to achieve sustainable economic and social development, ensuring a better economic balance between developed and developing countries, should be strengthened;

5. *Calls upon* all relevant organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental, regional and subregional organizations, within their continuing mandated activities, to address the issue of international migration and development and to provide appropriate support for interregional, regional and subregional processes and activities on international migration and development;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session a report on international migration and development, taking into account:

(*a*) The views of Member States, the International Organization for Migration, the International Labour Organization and other relevant organizations, both within and outside the United Nations system, bearing in mind various regional processes, and recommending ways and means to address the problems related to migration and development, including the possibility of convening an international conference on international migration and development;

(*b*) The report of the technical symposium on international migration and development which will be convened in 1998;

(*c*) The report of the Committee for Development Planning[10] on its examination of the issue of migration and development;

(*d*) The work of the Administrative Committee on Coordination which addresses the issue of international migration and development from cross-sectoral, interregional, regional and subregional points of view;

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session a sub-item entitled "International migration and development, including the question of the convening of a United Nations conference on international migration and development to address migration issues".

*77th plenary meeting*
*18 December 1997*

---

[11] A/52/314.

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/RES/52/190
4 February 1998

Fifty-second session
Agenda item 97 (*e*)

## RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/52/628/Add.5)*]

### 52/190. Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)

*The General Assembly*,

*Recalling* its resolution 51/177 of 16 December 1996, in which it endorsed the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements[1] and the Habitat Agenda,[2] adopted by the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) at Istanbul, on 14 June 1996,

*Cognizant* of the importance of maintaining the momentum already generated at the national, regional and international levels for the implementation of measures designed to address the economic, social and environmental consequences of rapid urbanization,

*Stressing* the need to improve conditions of shelter, access to safe drinking water, adequate sanitation and basic social services in both rural and urban areas,

*Recalling* paragraph 218 of the Habitat Agenda, in which the Conference requested the General Assembly to consider holding a special session in the year 2001 for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of Habitat II, and paragraph 15 of resolution 51/177, in which the Assembly reaffirmed that a decision on the matter should be taken at its fifty-second session,

*Noting* the delay in the submission of the report of the Secretary-General on the final comprehensive and in-depth assessment of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) with a view to its revitalization, as called for in paragraph 19 of resolution 51/177, and stressing that that has constrained consideration by the Assembly of those issues,

---

[1] A/CONF.165/14, chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[2] Ibid., annex II.

*Recalling* its resolution 51/225 of 3 April 1997, and noting with concern the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services,[3] in which serious concern is expressed about the financial irregularities in the Centre, and recognizing that the serious management and financial situation at the Centre should be addressed as a matter of urgency,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Commission on Human Settlements on its sixteenth session[4] and on the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000,[5] and the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II);[6]

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to address urgently the serious management and financial situation at the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to meet its responsibilities in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda,[2] in accordance with Commission on Human Settlements resolution 16/8;[7]

3. *Urges* the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to take further action towards the reform of the administrative and financial management of the Centre pursuant to the recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services,[3] as well as the relevant reports of the United Nations Board of Auditors and Commission on Human Settlements resolutions 16/8 and 16/19,[7] and decisions 16/28 and 16/29;[8]

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fifty-third session the comprehensive and in-depth assessment of the Centre with a view to its revitalization called for in paragraph 19 of resolution 51/177, taking into account Commission resolution 16/8 and other relevant resolutions adopted by the Commission at its sixteenth session;

5. *Urges* all Governments and other actors concerned with human settlements and urban management issues, such as local authorities, relevant intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, parliamentarians, the private sector, trade unions, academicians and other community groups, to implement fully and effectively the Habitat Agenda;

6. *Invites* Governments to consider, where appropriate, including in their delegations to future sessions of the Commission, in accordance with the specific conditions of each country, representatives of local authorities and the relevant actors of civil society, particularly the private sector, non-governmental organizations and research organizations, in the field of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development;

7. *Affirms* that, in a rapidly urbanizing world, the pivotal role of local authorities in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda should be recognized and enhanced;

---

[3] A/52/339, annex.

[4] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 8* (A/52/8).

[5] Ibid., *Supplement No.8* (A/52/8/Add.1).

[6] A/52/181-E/1997/77.

[7] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 8* (A/52/8), annex I, sect. A.2.

[8] Ibid, sect. B.

8. *Requests* all relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, and invites the Bretton Woods institutions, to support fully the effective implementation of the Habitat Agenda, at all levels, and to enhance their cooperation for that purpose, with a view to promoting an integrated, interrelated and coherent implementation of, and coordinated follow-up to, the outcomes of United Nations conferences;

9. *Stresses* that the full and effective implementation of the Habitat Agenda, in particular in all developing countries, especially those in Africa and the least developed countries, will require the mobilization of additional financial resources from various sources at the national and international levels and more effective development cooperation in support of national efforts in order to promote assistance for shelter and human settlements activities;

10. *Invites* all Governments and the international community to consider providing further support to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation in its activities, taking into account the need to continue to improve its effectiveness;

11. *Invites* the Commission on Human Settlements to promote the use of a set of key indicators to be developed further by the Centre and used by Governments, as appropriate, for national and local monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

12. *Decides* to hold a special session of the General Assembly in the year 2001 for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), the modalities of which will be decided on at its fifty-third session;

13. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council to consider devoting one high-level segment before the year 2001 to human settlements and the implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

15. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)".

*77th plenary meeting*
*18 December 1997*

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/RES/52/191
4 February 1998

Fifty-second session
Agenda item 97 (*e*)

## RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/52/628/Add.5)*]

### 52/191. Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000

*The General Assembly*,

*Recalling* its resolution 43/181 of 20 December 1988, in which it adopted the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 and designated the Commission on Human Settlements as the United Nations intergovernmental body responsible for coordinating, evaluating and monitoring the Strategy, and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) as the lead agency for the Strategy,

*Noting* that the conclusions of the mid-term review of the Strategy, conducted by the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), were incorporated into the Habitat Agenda,[1]

*Having considered* the fifth report of the Commission on Human Settlements on the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000,[2]

*Noting with satisfaction* the support given to the implementation of the Global Strategy by donor Governments, international bodies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations,

1. *Commends* Governments that are already revising, consolidating, formulating or implementing their national shelter strategies based on the enabling principles of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, as elaborated in the Habitat Agenda;[1]

2. *Urges* Governments, in connection with the implementation of their national plans of action on human settlements, to adopt or strengthen integrated national shelter strategies based on the enabling approach and sustainable development;

---

[1] A/CONF.165/14, chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 8* (A/52/8/Add.1).

3. *Also urges* Governments to integrate fully the environmental dimension in the formulation and implementation of national shelter strategies, taking into account the relevant components of Agenda 21;[3]

4. *Recommends* that Governments extend the application of urban and housing indicators to cities and rural settlements for monitoring the progress of their national shelter strategy and the performance of the shelter sector, taking into account local conditions and sensitivity to gender considerations;

5. *Urges* the international community to strengthen its support for national efforts to formulate and implement enabling shelter strategies in developing countries, as recommended in Agenda 21;

6. *Urges* the organizations of the United Nations system, particularly the United Nations Development Programme, and other multilateral and bilateral agencies to provide, on the basis of an approach consistent with the Global Strategy, increased financial and other support to Governments for achieving the objective of adequate shelter for all;

7. *Adopts* the plan of action for the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 during the biennium 1998-1999,[4] and urges Governments, relevant United Nations and private sector organizations, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to prepare and implement their specific plans of action;

8. *Decides* to subsume the sixth report of the Commission on Human Settlements to the General Assembly on the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, as called for in Assembly resolution 43/181, under the report of the Secretary-General to the Assembly on the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, to be submitted pursuant to Assembly resolution 51/177 of 16 December 1996.

*77th plenary meeting*
*18 December 1997*

---

[3] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

[4] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 8* (A/52/8/Add.1), annex.

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/RES/52/192
12 February 1998

Fifty-second session
Agenda item 97 (*e*)

## RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/52/628/Add.5)*]

### 52/192. Follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the future role of the Commission on Human Settlements

*The General Assembly*,

*Welcoming* the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held at Istanbul from 3 to 14 June 1996,[1]

*Bearing in mind* its resolutions 2718 (XXV) of 15 December 1970, 3001 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972 and 3327 (XXIX) of 16 December 1974, and in particular its resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977, by which it decided that the Economic and Social Council should transform the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning into the Commission on Human Settlements,

*Taking into account* its resolutions 51/177 of 16 December 1996 on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and 50/227 of 24 May 1996 on further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields,

*Recalling* that, in its resolution 51/177, the General Assembly reaffirmed that the Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and relevant resolutions, including Assembly resolutions 48/162 of 20 December 1993 and 50/227, and together with the Commission on Human Settlements, should constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism to oversee the coordination of activities for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda,[2]

*Convinced* that the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) will be undertaken on the basis of an integrated approach to human settlements development and within the

---

[1] See A/CONF.165/14.

[2] Ibid., chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

framework of coordinated follow-up to and implementation of the results of the major international conferences in the economic, social and related fields,

I

*Framework for the functioning of the Commission*

1. *Reaffirms* that the Commission on Human Settlements, as a standing committee of the Economic and Social Council, should have a central role in monitoring, within the United Nations system, the implementation of the Habitat Agenda[2] and advising the Council thereon;

2. *Calls upon* all the relevant United Nations organizations and specialized agencies to identify specific actions that they will undertake, within their mandates, towards the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, and invites them to inform the Administrative Committee on Coordination of their actions;

3. *Calls upon* the funds and programmes of the United Nations system and the regional commissions, consistent with their respective mandates, to support fully the effective implementation of the Habitat Agenda, particularly at the field level, as appropriate;

4. *Invites* the Bretton Woods institutions to consider how they might be actively involved in the implementation of and follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), and to enhance their cooperation with the United Nations system for that purpose;

5. *Decides*, in view of the importance of non-governmental organizations, local authorities, the private sector and research organizations in the promotion of human settlements development, that such organizations should be encouraged to participate in the work of the Commission, in accordance with the relevant provisions of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996 on the consultative relationship between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations;

II

*Terms of reference*

6. *Reaffirms* the existing mandate of the Commission on Human Settlements as set out in resolution 32/162, while stressing the normative and catalytic character of the mandate;

7. *Reaffirms in particular* the responsibility of the Commission to give overall policy guidance to and to supervise the operations of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), including the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation;

8. *Takes into account* that the Commission should fulfil its mandate in line with paragraphs 222 to 227 of the Habitat Agenda and in harmony with recommendations made by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, particularly chapter 7 of Agenda 21;[3]

9. *Decides* that the Commission, in fulfilling its mandate, shall assist the Economic and Social Council in monitoring, reviewing and assessing the progress made in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, *inter alia*, through the analysis of relevant inputs from Governments, local authorities and their associations, relevant non-governmental organizations and the private sector;

---

[3] See *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

10. *Also decides* that the Commission shall identify issues on which system-wide coordination needs to be improved and modalities for promoting such coordination, in order to assist the Council in its coordination function;

III

*Structure of the agenda and work programme of the Commission*

11. *Urges* the Commission to adopt a multi-year work programme for a focused and thematic approach that would, *inter alia*, provide a framework to assess the progress achieved in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and that would be in line with the coordinated follow-up to conferences, culminating in an overall review and appraisal of the Habitat Agenda in the year 2001;

12. *Decides* that the work of the Commission, in relation to its programme of work, shall be primarily focused on the relevant provisions of the Habitat Agenda, with a view to ensuring the effective implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

13. *Also decides* that the agenda of the Commission on Human Settlements at its future sessions shall include the following substantive items derived from the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II):

(*a*) Issues identified in the multi-year programme of work;

(*b*) Relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the themes "Sustainable human settlements development" and "Adequate shelter for all";

(*c*) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting human settlements development;

14. *Further decides* that, at its seventeenth and eighteenth sessions, the Commission will focus on monitoring the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and assessing its impact, structuring those sessions around the following four substantive areas of the Habitat Agenda:

(*a*) Adequate shelter for all, also incorporating the monitoring of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000;

(*b*) Sustainable human settlements in an urbanizing world, also incorporating the monitoring of chapter 7 of Agenda 21;

(*c*) Capacity-building and institutional development;

(*d*) International cooperation and coordination;

15. *Decides* that:

(*a*) At its seventeenth session, in 1999, the Commission will address the above-mentioned substantive areas;

(*b*) At its eighteenth session, in 2001, the Commission will focus on preparations for the special session of the General Assembly, if appropriate;

(*c*) In 1998 and 2000, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) will analyse the progress made on national implementation status, organized around the four above-mentioned substantive

areas, and will prepare synthesized reports to be submitted for consideration by the Commission at its seventeenth and eighteenth sessions;

IV

*Documentation*

16. *Requests* that all United Nations documentation be kept concise, clear, analytical and timely, with a focus on relevant issues, that to the greatest extent possible use be made of integrated reporting, that reports contain recommendations for action and indicate the actors involved, that reports be made available in all official languages in accordance with the rules of the United Nations, and that the use of other methods of reporting, such as oral reports, also be explored;

V

*Methods of work of the Commission*

17. *Recognizes* that the methods of work of the Commission should be revitalized in order to improve the profile of the Commission and attract high-level political participation;

18. *Decides* that preparation of thematic discussions in the Commission should be broadened by:

(*a*) Inviting countries to contribute to the preparation of the sessions by, for example, organizing seminars or expert panels on issues directly related to the themes that will be discussed at a particular session, and to report thereon;

(*b*) Involving local authorities, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other partners in the preparatory phases of Commission sessions;

19. *Also decides* that, during Commission sessions, dialogues with major groups and panel discussions may be organized, the format of which, as with all other agenda items, should be decided upon at preceding Commission sessions;

20. *Further decides* to consider organizing interactive high-level segments on key policy issues during future Commission sessions;

VI

*Secretariat*

21. *Urges* the Secretary-General to ensure the effective functioning of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in line with paragraph 232 of the Habitat Agenda so as to enable it to discharge its mandate fully and to serve as an efficient secretariat to the Commission, and also to ensure that clear lines of responsibility are drawn so as to facilitate the implementation of the follow-up to Habitat II and secure close cooperation at the secretariat level among all United Nations entities involved in the follow-up;

22. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to submit to the Commission on Human Settlements at future sessions a detailed report on the activities of regional offices, paying special attention to the status of implementation of the work programmes elaborated for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda in each region.

*77th plenary meeting*
*18 December 1997*

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/RES/52/193
12 February 1998

Fifty-second session
Agenda item 97 (*f*)

## RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/52/628/Add.6)*]

### 52/193. First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty

*The General Assembly*,

*Recalling* its resolutions 48/183 of 21 December 1993, 49/110 of 19 December 1994, 50/107 of 20 December 1995 and 51/178 of 16 December 1996 related to the observance of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty (1996) and to the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006), and all its other relevant resolutions relating to international cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries,

*Recalling also* all declarations and programmes of action of the United Nations major conferences and summits organized since 1990 and the reports and publications on the outcomes of those conferences and summits as they relate to poverty eradication,

*Taking note* of the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[1] adopted by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21, the *Report on the World Social Situation, 1997*,[2] the *Human Development Report, 1997*[3] and the *Trade and Development Report, 1997*,[4]

---

[1] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

[2] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.1 and Corr.1.

[3] Published for the United Nations Development Programme by Oxford University Press, New York, 1997.

[4] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.II.D.8.

*Expressing its concern* that, as underlined in the reports mentioned above, the number of people living in absolute poverty is still increasing, especially in developing countries, and that a majority of them are women,

*Noting* decisions, measures and activities undertaken to eradicate poverty by countries and by organizations, agencies, funds, programmes and bodies of the United Nations system, including the World Bank, as well as by non-governmental organizations and the entire civil society within the framework of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty and the first year of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty,

1. *Reiterates* that the main objective of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty is to achieve the goal of eradicating absolute poverty and reducing overall poverty substantially in the world through decisive national actions and international cooperation in implementing fully and effectively the relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations and all agreements and commitments agreed upon at the United Nations major conferences and summits organized since 1990 as they relate to poverty eradication;

2. *Reaffirms* that, within the context of overall action for the eradication of poverty, special attention should be given to the multidimensional nature of poverty, to the national and international framework conditions and policies that are conducive to its eradication, which should aim at the social and economic integration of people living in poverty, and to the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including the right to development;

3. *Reaffirms also* that the causes of poverty should be addressed in the context of sectoral strategies, such as those on environment, food security, population, migration, health, shelter, human resources development, including education, fresh water, including clean water and sanitation, rural development and productive employment, and of the specific needs of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, in such a way as to increase opportunities and choices of people living in poverty and enable them to build their strengths and assets so as to achieve social and economic integration;

4. *Reaffirms further* that all Governments and the United Nations system, in particular the relevant funds, programmes and agencies, should promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective and use gender analysis as a tool for the integration of a gender dimension into the planning and implementation of policies, strategies and programmes on poverty eradication;

5. *Emphasizes* that, in developing countries, rural development remains central to poverty eradication efforts, and this often includes agrarian reform, investment in infrastructure, extension of rural financial intermediation ensuring food security, better education and greater utilization of appropriate technology, ensuring fair prices to provide incentives for agricultural investment, and increasing productivity, including productivity in the informal sector;

6. *Emphasizes also* that in all countries, urban poverty should be addressed, *inter alia*, by promoting sustainable livelihoods for people living in urban poverty through the provision or expansion of access to training, education and other employment assistance services, in particular for women, youth, the unemployed and the underemployed;

7. *Decides* that, every year, the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (17 October) should be marked by concentrating on the themes that the General Assembly chooses for that year;

8. *Renews* its recommendation that all Governments formulate or strengthen integrated poverty eradication strategies and policies and implement national poverty eradication plans or programmes in a participatory manner, to address the structural causes of poverty, encompassing action at local, national, subregional, regional and international levels, and stresses that those plans or programmes should establish,

within each national context, strategies and affordable time-bound goals and targets for the substantial reduction of overall poverty and the eradication of absolute poverty;

9. *Calls upon* developed countries to reaffirm the commitments undertaken to fulfil, as soon as possible, the agreed target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for overall development assistance and, where agreed, within that target, to earmark 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of the gross national product for the least developed countries;

10. *Invites* the international community, including multilateral financial institutions, to implement fully and effectively all initiatives taken regarding debt relief for developing countries, including the Naples terms and the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative, and to continue their efforts in this field with a view to contributing to a durable solution to the debt problems of developing countries, and encourages donors to ensure adequate financing of these mechanisms or initiatives, particularly in African countries and the least developed countries, and thus support their efforts to eradicate poverty;

11. *Takes note* of the various international microfinance initiatives launched in recent years, such as the Microcredit Summit, held in Washington, D.C., from 2 to 4 February 1997,[5] and the Consultative Group to Assist the Poorest, and invites all Governments, the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, the relevant non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other actors of civil society to focus on the importance of increasing access to microcredit and related financial services for self-employment and income-generating activities for people living in poverty, in particular women in developing countries, particularly in Africa and the least developed countries, and to support the corresponding programmes and actions;

12. *Invites* the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund to consider extending projects under the rubric "Poverty Strategies Initiative" to all developing countries in order to make the initiative closely geared to the poverty eradication goals of the commitments adopted at the World Summit for Social Development[6] and to strengthen assistance in the elaboration of national plans, programmes and strategies to eradicate poverty, particularly in African countries and the least developed countries, and calls upon all countries to contribute to the Initiative;

13. *Calls upon* all donors to give high priority to the eradication of poverty in their assistance budgets and programmes, on both bilateral and multilateral bases, and invites the relevant funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system to support developing countries, particularly African countries and the least developed countries, in their efforts to achieve the overall goal of eradicating poverty and ensuring basic social services, by supporting national efforts to formulate, coordinate, implement, monitor and assess integrated poverty strategies, including capacity-building, and by supporting efforts to empower people living in poverty;

14. *Reaffirms* the importance of agreeing on a mutual commitment between interested developed and developing country partners to allocate, on average, 20 per cent of official development assistance and 20 per cent of the national budget, respectively, to basic social programmes, and recalls the outcome of the Oslo meeting which reaffirmed that promoting access for all basic social services was essential for sustainable development and should be an integral part of any strategy to overcome poverty;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to it at its fifty-third session on progress made in the implementation of measures, themes, recommendations and activities related to the first United Nations

---

[5] See A/52/113.

[6] See *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.C.

Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, including recommendations for possible actions and initiatives for the rest of the Decade, as well as proposals for better coordination of actions taken by the United Nations system;

16. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session an item entitled "Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)".

*77th plenary meeting*
*18 December 1997*

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/RES/52/194
18 February 1998

Fifty-second session
Agenda item 97 (*f*)

## RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/52/628/Add.6)*]

### 52/194. Role of microcredit in the eradication of poverty

*The General Assembly*,

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the observance of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty (1996) and recommendations for the rest of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006),[1]

*Recognizing* that people living in poverty are innately capable of working their way out of poverty with dignity, and can demonstrate creative potentials to improve their situation when an enabling environment and the right opportunities exist,

*Noting* that in many countries of the world, microcredit programmes, by providing access to small amounts of capital to people living in poverty, have succeeded in generating productive self-employment,

*Also noting* that microcredit programmes have proved to be an effective tool in freeing people from the bondage of poverty and have led to their increasing participation in the mainstream economic and political process of society,

*Bearing in mind* that microcredit programmes have especially benefited women and have resulted in the achievement of their empowerment in a world where more women than men live in absolute poverty and that the imbalance continues to grow,

*Recognizing* that microcredit programmes, in addition to their role in the eradication of poverty, have also been a contributing factor to the social and human development process,

[1] A/52/573.

*Noting* that the qualitative and quantitative development of microcredit institutions and their capacity to reach the marginalized groups requires the provision of an enabling environment, including a policy framework for the financial sector, as well as linkages to the formal financial sector,

*Bearing in mind* the importance of microfinance instruments such as credit, savings and related business services in providing access to capital for people living in poverty,

*Noting* that the provision of finance to microcredit institutions should be commensurate with their absorptive capacity and that efforts should be made to strengthen and enhance that capacity,

*Noting also* the positive references in support of the role of microcredit contained in the final documents of the Twelfth Ministerial Conference of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held at New Delhi on 7 and 8 April 1997,[2] the Ninth Summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, held at Male from 12 to 14 May 1997,[3] the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-third ordinary session, held at Harare from 2 to 4 June 1997,[4] the substantive session of 1997 of the Economic and Social Council, held at Geneva from 30 June to 25 July 1997,[5] and the meeting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government, held at Edinburgh from 24 to 27 October 1997, as well as the statement on economic and financial issues of the Group of Seven, issued at Denver, United States of America, on 21 June 1997,

1. *Welcomes* the launching of different microcredit initiatives in recent years, and acknowledges their important contribution to the eradication of poverty, empowerment of women and social upliftment;

2. *Also welcomes* the outcome of the Microcredit Summit, held in Washington, D.C., from 2 to 4 February 1997, which, through its Declaration and Plan of Action,[6] endorsed a global campaign to reach 100 million of the world's poorest families, especially women of those families, with credit for self-employment and other financial and business services, by the year 2005;

3. *Notes with satisfaction* that, as called for in Assembly resolution 51/178 of 16 December 1996, many United Nations agencies and the World Bank actively participated in the Summit and thus contributed to its successful outcome;

4. *Takes note* of the Declaration and Plan of Action of the Microcredit Summit,[6] the communiqué[7] issued by the Council of Heads of State and Government at the Summit, and messages to the Summit from the Chairman of the Group of 77 and China[8] and from the Secretary-General;[9]

---

[2] A/51/912-S/1997/406, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-second Year, Supplement for July, August and September 1997*, document S/1997/406.

[3] A/52/222, annex.

[4] A/52/465, annex II.

[5] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1997, Supplement No. 1* (E/1997/97).

[6] A/52/113, annex I.

[7] Ibid., annex II.

[8] Ibid., annex III.

[9] Ibid., annex IV.

5. *Recognizes* the important contributions being made by the United Nations system and by the Consultative Group to Assist the Poorest, sponsored by the World Bank, to develop and disseminate best practices among all organizations engaged in the provision of financial services on a sustainable basis to people living in poverty;

6. *Encourages* all involved in poverty eradication programmes to consider incorporating microcredit schemes in their strategies;

7. *Also encourages* them to adopt policies that support the development of microcredit institutions and their capacities so that credit and related services may be made available to increasing numbers of people living in poverty;

8. *Calls upon* the international donor community to support the strengthening of existing and emerging microcredit institutions in the developing countries, especially the least developed and the African countries;

9. *Also calls upon* the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in particular its funds and programmes and the regional commissions, as well as relevant international and regional financial institutions and donor agencies involved in the eradication of poverty, to explore including the microcredit approach in their programmes as a tool for the eradication of poverty and further developing, where appropriate, other microfinance instruments;

10. *Calls upon* all concerned non-governmental organizations, other actors of civil society and the private sector to support and incorporate, as appropriate, microcredit and related services in their programmes for the eradication of poverty;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in collaboration with relevant organizations of the United Nations system, including funds and programmes and the World Bank, to submit to it at its fifty-third session a report on the role of microcredit in the eradication of poverty in the follow-up to resolution 52/193 entitled "First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty";

12. *Decides* to include future discussions of the role of microcredit under an item entitled "Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)".

*77th plenary meeting*
*18 December 1997*

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/RES/52/195
18 February 1998

Fifty-second session
Agenda item 97 (*g*)

## RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/52/628/Add.7)*]

### 52/195. Women in development

*The General Assembly*,

*Recalling* its resolution 50/104 of 20 December 1995 and all other relevant Assembly resolutions on the integration of women in development, and also the resolutions and the agreed conclusions[1] adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women on the integration of women in development,

*Reaffirming* the Beijing Platform for Action[2] and the outcomes of recent major United Nations conferences and summits,

*Reaffirming also* that gender equality is of fundamental importance for achieving sustained economic growth and sustainable development, in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions and recent United Nations conferences,

*Recognizing* the significant contribution that women make to economic activities and the major force that they represent for change and development in all sectors of the economy, especially in key areas such as agriculture, industry and services,

*Concerned* that the continued discrimination against women, the denial or lack of equal rights and access to education, training and credit facilities and the lack of control over land, capital, technology and other areas of production impede their full and equal contribution to, and equal opportunity to benefit from, development,

---

[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1997, Supplement No. 7* (E/1997/27), chap. I, sect. C.1, agreed conclusions 1997/3.

[2] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

*Recognizing* that discrimination in education and training, hiring, remuneration and promotion, and horizontal mobility practices, continue to restrict employment, economic, professional and other opportunities and mobility for women and impede women in achieving their full potential,

*Reaffirming* that investing in the development of women and girls has multiplier effects on productivity, efficiency and sustained economic growth,

*Recognizing* that the difficult socio-economic conditions that exist in many developing countries, particularly those in Africa and the least developed countries, have resulted in the acceleration of the feminization of poverty, especially in rural areas and among female-headed households,

*Reaffirming* that women are key contributors to the economy and to combating poverty through both remunerated and unremunerated work at home, in the community and in the workplace and that the empowerment of women is a critical factor in the eradication of poverty,

*Recognizing* the continued need to review the impact of structural adjustment programmes in order to reduce any adverse impact on women, especially in terms of cut-backs in social services, education and health and the removal of subsidies on food and fuel,

*Aware* that, although globalization and liberalization processes have created employment opportunities for women in some countries, they have also created risks to and marginalization of women in developing countries,

*Recognizing* that the informal sector is a major source of entrepreneurship and employment for women in developing countries and that data collection on its important contribution should be improved,

*Expressing its concern* about the poor representation of women in economic decision-making, including in the formulation of monetary and fiscal policies as well as rules governing pay,

*Emphasizing* the promotion of programmes aimed at financial intermediation with a view to ensuring the equal access of rural women to credit and to agricultural inputs and implements and, in particular, to easing collateral requirements for access to credit by women,

*Stressing* the need for a family-friendly work environment, including appropriate working hours, affordable childcare and flexible working hours, and emphasizing the principle of shared responsibility between women and men for the achievement of gender equality,

*Stressing also* that neglecting a gender perspective in policy formulation and implementation exacerbates the feminization of poverty and economic inefficiency and has a high social cost,

*Noting* the importance of the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, particularly the funds and programmes, including the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, in facilitating the advancement of women in development,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General and the recommendations contained therein;[3]

2. *Calls* for the urgent implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action[2] and the relevant provisions contained in the outcomes of all other major United Nations conferences and summits;

---

[3] A/52/345.

3. *Stresses* that a favourable and conducive international and national economic, financial, political, social and legal environment and a positive investment climate are necessary for the effective integration of women in development;

4. *Reiterates its call* to all Governments and all actors of society to implement the commitment made at Beijing to create an enabling environment by, *inter alia*, removing discriminatory barriers and ensuring the full and equal participation of women in economic activities through, *inter alia*, the adoption of gender-sensitive policies and legal measures and the provision of other necessary structures;

5. *Stresses* the importance of developing national strategies for promoting sustainable and productive entrepreneurial activities to generate income among disadvantaged women and women living in poverty;

6. *Urges* Governments to develop and promote methodologies for mainstreaming a gender perspective into all aspects of policy-making, including economic policy-making;

7. *Stresses* the need to ensure that women and girls have full and equal access to all levels of education, vocational training and retraining programmes in order to improve their employment opportunities;

8. *Urges* all Governments to ensure women's equal rights with men and access to economic resources and to increase the access of women to credit by instituting innovative lending practices, including practices that integrate credit with services and training for women and that provide flexible credit facilities to women, in particular rural women, women in the informal sector, young women and women who lack access to traditional sources of collateral;

9. *Invites* Governments to enact legislation to ensure that women have equal access to and control over land, unmediated by male relatives, in order to end land rights discrimination, that women are accorded secure use rights and are fully represented in the decision-making bodies that allocate land and other forms of property, credit, information and new technologies, that in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action women are accorded full and equal rights to own land and other property, *inter alia*, through inheritance, and that land reform programmes begin by acknowledging the equality of the rights of women to land and that other measures are taken to increase land availability to poor women and men;

10. *Requests* Governments to ensure that the priorities of women are included in, and that women fully participate in, decisions on public investment programmes for economic infrastructure, technology, water supply and sanitation, electrification and energy conservation, transport and road construction and to promote greater involvement of women beneficiaries at the project planning and implementation stages to ensure their access to jobs and contracts;

11. *Urges* Governments to promote and strengthen microenterprises, new small businesses, cooperative enterprises, expanded markets and other employment opportunities, to facilitate, where appropriate, the transition from the informal to the formal sector, especially in rural areas, to provide outreach programmes to inform low-income and poor women, particularly in rural and remote areas, of opportunities for market and technology access and to provide women with assistance in taking advantage of such opportunities;

12. *Calls upon* Governments to promote, *inter alia*, through legislation, family-friendly and gender-sensitive work environments and also to promote the facilitation of breastfeeding for working mothers;

13. *Urges* the international community, the United Nations system and other relevant organizations to give priority to assisting the efforts of developing countries to ensure the full and effective participation of women in deciding and implementing development strategies, through, *inter alia*, the increased access of women to health care, capital, education, training and technology and full and equal participation in decision-making;

14. *Urges* multilateral donors, international financial institutions and regional development banks to review and implement policies in support of national efforts to ensure that a higher proportion of resources reach women, in particular women in rural and remote areas;

15. *Calls upon* the United Nations system to support developing countries in their efforts to integrate gender concerns into national programmes and to implement those programmes, including by providing adequate resources for operational activities for development;

16. *Also calls upon* the United Nations system to integrate gender mainstreaming into all its programmes and policies, including in the integrated follow-up to United Nations conferences, in accordance with agreed conclusions 1997/2 on gender mainstreaming adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1997;[4]

17. *Requests* the United Nations development system to continue working towards establishing a more coherent approach to its support for the income-generating activities of women, in particular credit schemes;

18. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the sub-item entitled "Women in development";

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session a report on the outcome of the implementation of the present resolution, including the impact of the globalization and liberalization processes on the integration of women in development, the implementation of operational activities for development of the United Nations system in enhancing the participation of women in national development programmes and the gender mainstreaming of United Nations programmes and policies.

*77th plenary meeting*
*18 December 1997*

---

[4] See A/52/3, chap. IV.A, para. 4. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/52/3/Rev.1).

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/RES/52/196
26 February 1998

Fifty-second session
Agenda item 97 (*h*)

## RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/52/628/Add.8)*]

### 52/196. Developing human resources for development

*The General Assembly*,

*Reaffirming* its resolutions 50/105 of 20 December 1995, 48/205 of 21 December 1993, 46/143 of 17 December 1991 and 45/191 of 21 December 1990, as well as the relevant sections of the Agenda for Development,[1]

*Recognizing* that people are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development and that the development of human resources is an essential component in the achievement of sustainable development, and stressing that effective human resources development should strengthen people's capabilities and competencies and enlarge the choices available to them in developing their lives and fulfilling their aspirations so as to reach total human development,

*Recognizing also* that there is a need to integrate human resources development into comprehensive strategies that mainstream a gender perspective, taking into account the needs of all people, in particular, the needs of women and the girl child,

*Stressing* that Governments have the primary responsibility for defining and implementing appropriate policies for human resources development and that there is a need for continued support from the international community to complement the efforts of Governments of developing countries to promote human resources development in pursuit of their national programmes, plans and strategies for development,

*Stressing also* that there is a need for a supportive and favourable national and international economic environment that will enhance human resources development in developing countries and promote sustained economic growth and sustainable development, in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions and recent United Nations conferences,

---

[1] Resolution 51/240, annex.

*Recognizing* that economic reforms and structural adjustment programmes are aimed at benefiting those countries which undertake them but that these programmes can also affect the capacity of Governments to implement appropriate policies that promote human resources development, and that there is a need, in the formulation of these programmes, to continue to integrate measures that mitigate such an effect,

*Recognizing also* the vital role of South-South cooperation in supporting national efforts at human resources development,

*Emphasizing* the continued need for coordination and integration among the organs and organizations of the United Nations system in assisting developing countries, in particular the least developed among them, to foster the development of their human resources, especially that of the most vulnerable, and for the United Nations to continue to give priority to human resources development in developing countries,

*Recognizing* the importance accorded to the human component of development in the declarations and programmes of action adopted at all the major United Nations conferences and summits since 1990,

1. *Takes note* of the note by the Secretary-General;[2]

2. *Emphasizes* that, in the development of human resources, an overall, well-conceived and integrated approach that mainstreams a gender perspective and takes into account the needs of all people should be adopted, incorporating such vital areas as population, health, nutrition, water, sanitation, housing, communications, education and training, and science and technology, as well as taking into account the need to create more opportunities for employment in an environment that guarantees political freedom, popular participation, respect for human rights, justice and equity, all of which are essential for enhancing human capacity to meet the challenge of development;

3. *Encourages* all countries to apply the requisite policies to ensure the development of their human resources, through education and training and by seeking, where possible, to increase receptivity to technological innovations, including those in the field of information technology;

4. *Emphasizes* the need to ensure the full participation of women in the formulation and implementation of national policies to promote human resources development;

5. *Acknowledges* the efforts of developing countries in promoting human resources development, and, in this regard, emphasizes the need for international cooperation to advance human resources development and the need for concerted efforts to support the efforts of developing countries, especially in those Africa and the least developed countries, to develop their human resources;

6. *Encourages* all countries to accord priority, in particular in national budgets, to human resources development in the context of the adoption of economic and social policies;

7. *Emphasizes* that human resources development and institution-building can be promoted through South-South cooperation, and calls upon countries to take action in this regard;

8. *Invites* international organizations, including international financial institutions, to continue to give priority to supporting the objectives of human resources development and to integrating them into their policies, programmes and operations;

9. *Emphasizes* that structural adjustment programmes should support social development goals, in particular the eradication of poverty, the promotion of full and productive employment and the enhancement of social integration, with due regard to the implementation of sound economic policies;

---

[2] A/52/540.

10. *Calls upon* the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in accordance with their mandates, work programmes and priorities, to coordinate effectively their activities in support of national and regional action in the area of human resources development and capacity-building, both among themselves and with other development partners, and to strengthen the impact of their development activities on human resources development;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in his report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session an assessment of the effectiveness of the contribution made by the United Nations system to advance human resources development through its operational activities, and to make recommendations to further enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of its contribution to human resources development, including the identification of possible new approaches that will enhance their impact;

12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development and international economic cooperation", the sub-item entitled "Human resources development".

*77th plenary meeting*
*18 December 1997*

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/RES/52/197
26 February 1998

Fifty-second session
Agenda item 97 (*i*)

## RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/52/628/Add.9)*]

### 52/197. Cultural development

*The General Assembly*,

*Recalling* its resolutions 41/187 of 8 December 1986, in which it proclaimed the period 1988-1997 the World Decade for Cultural Development, 46/158 of 19 December 1991, in which it requested the Secretary-General to cooperate with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in establishing an independent World Commission on Culture and Development, and expected the World Commission to submit its final report to the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and to the United Nations General Assembly no later than three years after it began its work, and 51/179 of 16 December 1996, concerning the report of the World Commission,

*Noting* the fact that public opinion throughout the world as well as Governments and non-governmental organizations have become much more sensitive to the need for better integration of the cultural dimension into the entire development process,

*Recognizing* that this awareness of the central importance of culture is, nevertheless, insufficiently present in development policy and practice,

*Acknowledging with satisfaction* the active participation of Member States, United Nations bodies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and individuals in the implementation of projects of national, regional and interregional scope, aiming at the promotion of the objectives of the Decade, and in the work of the World Commission and its follow-up,

*Taking note* of the first meeting of Ministers of Culture of non-aligned countries, held at Medellín, Colombia, on 4 and 5 September 1997,[1]

[1] See A/52/432.

1. *Takes note* of the note by the Secretary-General on the progress of the World Decade for Cultural Development during the period 1994-1997;[2]

2. *Invites* all Member States, intergovernmental bodies and organizations of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations:

(*a*) To ensure that the lessons and experiences gained and the momentum generated through the World Decade and the World Commission on Culture and Development are reflected in all their development strategies, as appropriate;

(*b*) To submit their comments to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the report of the World Commission on Culture and Development, entitled *Our Creative Diversity*;[3]

(*c*) To intensify their efforts to integrate cultural factors into their development programmes and projects, so as to ensure sustainable development that fully respects cultural diversity, taking into account their cultural values and identity;

3. *Stresses* the importance of the question of interaction between culture and development, and encourages the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to accord priority to this theme in its work;

4. *Encourages* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to pursue its ongoing task of promoting throughout the United Nations system a greater awareness of the crucial relationship between culture and development, taking into account the diversity of cultures;

5. *Welcomes* the convening in Stockholm in 1998 of an intergovernmental conference on cultural policies for development, organized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in the elaboration of the international development strategy for the next United Nations development decade, to include recommendations for the integration of the cultural dimension in development activities;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to include the outcome of the Stockholm conference in his report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session.

*77th plenary meeting*
*18 December 1997*

---

[2] A/52/382.

[3] Paris, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, 1996.

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/RES/52/198
2 March 1998

Fifty-second session
Agenda item 98 (*b*)

## RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/52/629/Add.2)*]

### 52/198. Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa

*The General Assembly*,

*Recalling* its resolutions 47/188 of 22 December 1992, 48/191 of 21 December 1993, 49/234 of 23 December 1994, 50/112 of 20 December 1995, 51/180 of 16 December 1996 and 51/238 of 17 June 1997,

*Noting with satisfaction* that a large number of States have ratified the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa,[1] and calling upon other States to take appropriate action to that end,

*Noting* that, in accordance with paragraphs 4 and 5 of its resolution 51/180, the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention was held at Rome from 29 September to 10 October 1997 and that it was attended by one hundred and two parties and by a large number of observers from Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations,

*Expressing its deep appreciation* to the Government of Italy for the generous manner in which it hosted the first session of the Conference of the Parties and to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for the facilities it provided,

*Recognizing* the contribution to the convention process of the interim secretariat of the Convention, within the framework of the former Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the Secretariat, as well as the support provided to the interim secretariat by all bilateral and multilateral contributors, including regional and non-governmental organizations,

[1] A/49/84/Add.2, annex, appendix II.

*Recognizing also* the support provided during the interim phase of the Convention to the launching of national, subregional and regional action programme processes in response to the resolution on urgent action for Africa,[2] and the support provided to the interim activities in other regions carried out by Governments, regional economic integration organizations, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, as well as by specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system,

*Noting* the offer made by the Secretary-General to provide administrative and support arrangements in the framework of an institutional linkage of the Convention secretariat to the United Nations,

*Taking note* of the decision of the Conference of the Parties,[3] on the basis of the offer made by the Secretary-General, that the Convention secretariat should be institutionally linked to the United Nations, while not being fully integrated into the work programme and management structure of any particular department or programme,

*Taking note also* of the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties, its subsidiary bodies and the secretariat of the Convention,[4] adopted by the Conference at its first session, whereby, *inter alia*, the Secretary-General, at 1 January 1999, is requested to establish trust funds (general, supplementary and special funds) for the purposes of the Convention, to be managed by the head of the Convention secretariat in accordance with the relevant financial rules and within the duly delegated authority,

*Taking note further* of the decision of the Conference of the Parties at its first session[5] that the General Assembly be requested to decide, bearing in mind the institutional linkage of the Convention secretariat to the United Nations and the large number of States that are parties to the Convention, to finance from the regular programme budget of the United Nations the conference-servicing costs arising from sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies for the duration of the institutional linkage,

*Taking note* of the reports of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa on its tenth session, held in New York from 6 to 17 January 1997,[6] and its resumed tenth session, held at Geneva from 18 to 22 August 1997,[7] and the report of the Conference of the Parties on its first session,[8]

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 51/180,[9] in particular paragraph 15,

1. *Approves* the institutional linkage between the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly

---

[2] Ibid., appendix III, resolution 5/1.

[3] ICCD/COP(1)/11/Add.1, decision 3/COP.1.

[4] Ibid., decision 2/COP.1.

[5] Ibid., decision 4/COP.1.

[6] A/52/82, annex.

[7] A/52/82/Add.1, annex.

[8] ICCD/COP(1)/11 and Add.1.

[9] A/52/549.

in Africa, and the United Nations, in accordance with the offer made by the Secretary-General and as accepted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its first session;[3]

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to review the functioning of the institutional linkage, including the financing arrangements, not later than 31 December 2000, in consultation with the Conference of the Parties, with a view to making such modifications as may be considered desirable by the General Assembly and the Conference, and to report thereon to the Assembly;

3. *Notes* that the Conference of the Parties has decided to accept the offer of the Government of Germany to host the Convention secretariat at Bonn,[10] and expresses its appreciation for the support offered by the future host Government with respect to the relocation and effective functioning of the Convention secretariat;

4. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Government of Switzerland, which hosted the interim secretariat, and to the Government of Canada and the Government of Spain, which offered to host the Convention secretariat, and invites them to continue to support the permanent secretariat and to contribute to the implementation of the Convention;

5. *Welcomes* the selection by the Conference of the Parties at its first session of the International Fund for Agricultural Development to house the Global Mechanism and, in accordance with the decision of the Conference,[11] invites the Fund, as the lead organization, to cooperate fully with the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank;

6. *Takes note* of the statement of the President of the Conference of the Parties at the closing of the first session, and, in this context, invites the Conference to facilitate the elaboration of an additional regional implementation annex to the Convention for the countries of the eastern and central European region to be launched at the second session of the Conference in 1998, in accordance with the goals and objectives of the Convention, and with a view to finalizing it as soon as possible;

7. *Urges* Governments and all interested organizations, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to make promptly the voluntary contributions necessary to ensure that the Global Mechanism can begin operating on 1 January 1998;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General, bearing in mind the decision taken by the Conference of the Parties at its first session:[12]

(*a*) To authorize the interim secretariat established pursuant to resolution 47/188 to act as the secretariat for the transition period following the first session of the Conference of the Parties until the permanent secretariat designated by the Conference begins operating by 1 January 1999;

(*b*) To maintain the arrangements within the current programme budget for the interim secretariat to support the Convention until the permanent secretariat begins operating by 1 January 1999 and to maintain the arrangements relating to extrabudgetary funds;

9. *Notes with appreciation* the contributions made to the Trust Fund established pursuant to resolution 47/188, and invites Governments, regional economic integration organizations and other interested organizations to continue to make voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund to support the interim secretariat

---

[10] ICCD/COP(1)/11/Add.1, decision 5/COP.1.

[11] Ibid., decision 24/COP.1.

[12] Ibid., decision 6/COP.1.

and the work of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies for the transition period following the first session of the Conference;

10. *Also notes with appreciation* the contributions made to the Special Voluntary Fund established pursuant to resolution 47/188 to assist developing countries affected by desertification and drought, in particular the least developed countries, as well as representatives of non-governmental organizations of developing countries, to participate fully and effectively in the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies, and invites Governments, regional economic integration organizations and other organizations to continue to contribute generously to the Fund also for the transition period following the first session of the Conference;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to close, on 31 December 1998, the Trust Fund and the Special Voluntary Fund established under the provisions of resolution 47/188 and to transfer any amounts remaining in the Trust Fund and in the Special Voluntary Fund as of 31 December 1998, respectively, to the supplementary fund to be established pursuant to paragraph 9 of the financial rules[4] and to the special fund to be established in accordance with paragraph 10 of the financial rules;

12. *Renews its appeal* to Governments, regional economic integration organizations and other interested organizations, as well as to non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to continue to contribute generously to the two extrabudgetary funds mentioned above for the transition period following the first session of the Conference of the Parties;

13. *Calls upon* all countries that are not parties to the Convention to take appropriate action for the ratification, acceptance, approval or accession to the Convention;

14. *Stresses* the necessity to advance, as soon as possible, the full implementation of the Convention, and, in this context, calls upon Governments of affected countries, as a matter of priority, to accelerate the processes of elaboration of national, subregional and regional action programmes, and calls upon the international community, in particular the developed countries, and the United Nations system, and invites the multilateral financial institutions and all other interested actors, to support the efforts of affected developing countries in these processes by providing financial resources and other forms of assistance, in accordance with the relevant articles of the Convention and the decisions of the Conference of the Parties;

15. *Urges* all States that are parties to the Convention to pay promptly and in full on the first month of each year, starting on 1 January 1999, the contributions required for the core budget of the Convention envisaged in the financial rules, so as to ensure continuity in the cash flow required to finance the ongoing work of the Conference of the Parties, the subsidiary bodies, the permanent secretariat and the Global Mechanism;

16. *Calls upon* all countries, in particular developed countries, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to contribute generously to the trust funds (general, supplementary and special funds) to be established by the Secretary-General on 1 January 1999, in conformity with the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties, in order to facilitate activities under the Convention and to support the participation of representatives of developing and, in particular, least developed country parties affected by desertification and/or drought, particularly those in Africa, as well as the participation of some representatives of non-governmental organizations of those countries in the sessions of the Conference and its subsidiary bodies;

17. *Decides* to include in the calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 1998-1999 the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies envisaged for that biennium, taking into account the request of the Conference;

18. *Takes note* of the transitional arrangement for administrative support to the Convention secretariat, outlined in the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 51/180,[9] with particular reference to the implications arising from the report of the Conference of the Parties on its

first session,[8] which should facilitate the establishment and relocation of the Convention secretariat and assist it in addressing any initial financial and personnel problems that may be encountered in that context;

19. *Welcomes with appreciation* the generous offer of the Government of Senegal to host the second session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at Dakar from 30 November to 11 December 1998;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Governments, the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, multilateral and bilateral financial institutions and other intergovernmental organizations, as well as to non-governmental organizations and the private sector;

21. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to it, at its fifty-third session, on the implementation of the present resolution;

22. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa".

*77th plenary meeting*
*18 December 1997*